

### Be a Petroleum Reduction Champion!

Hats off to Waste Management for purchasing refuse trucks that run on compressed natural gas! Kudos to Schwan's dedication to propane fueled delivery trucks, and PepsiCo/FritoLay's move to electric delivery vehicles! These well-know companies are taking the leap to alternative fuels and vehicles to reduce their petroleum consumption.

But what if you're a fleet manager just learning about alternative fuels, or your small business has just a few vehicles not due for replacement, *or* your company is headquartered in an area with little or no access to alternative transportation fuels? Can you make a significant impact in your fleet's petroleum consumption? Of course you can!

There are many other *significant* ways to reduce petroleum consumption and reduce overall fuel costs. These are just a few fuel saving tips:

1. Don't sit idling by! Allowing your heavy duty truck to idle wastes up to a gallon of fuel per hour and contributes to air pollution. Institute an organization-wide "no idling" policy. A template is available; just fill in the blanks, and announce the initiative to your employees, customers, vendors, and residents. How you implement this policy is up to you but if you stick with it, you'll save fuel (and reduce vehicle emissions).
2. In the HOUSE! Garage your heavy duty diesels in cold weather. It can take twenty minutes or more to warm up the big rigs in winter. Storing these vehicles in a garage reduces (and can eliminate) the need to warm-up a cold vehicle. Auxiliary operated heaters are another option for quick winter warm-up.
3. The proof is in the driving! Invest in driver training and GPS telematics systems. Driver training programs are available and participants improve their performance while reducing fuel consumption. The installation of GPS devices takes the guess work out of vehicle and driver performance, providing fleet managers with information on vehicle operating speed, idling, miles driven and driver behavior.
4. Are we really going *that* route? Route planning reduces vehicle miles traveled which reduces fuel consumption. Route optimization software, consolidating trips (and riders) and backhauling (hauling cargo back) can cut a vehicle's costs in half.
5. Roll with it! Install low rolling resistance tires on your vehicles and see a 5%-30% increase in fuel economy, depending on size and type of vehicle.

Keeping your vehicles properly maintained, adhering to a vehicle replacement schedule and instituting one or more of these strategies makes you *the* petroleum reduction expert in your organization.

For more on conserving fuel in your fleet, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's *Conserve Fuel* web page: [www.afdc.energy.gov/conserve/](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/conserve/). For information on other petroleum reduction strategies (including alternative fuels and vehicles), and to request the "no-idling" policy template, visit Granite State Clean Cities Coalition: [www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov](http://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov).